

Peabody gets facelift

Will Horton
Staff Writer

Peabody Auditorium, located across the street from Beeson Hall, is currently undergoing renovations that cost upwards of \$600,000.

The renovations will improve accessibility, add more seating space and stimulate versatility in an otherwise single-purpose building.

"This renovation has been needed for a long time," said Rick Ruark, GC associate director for planning and business services. "The last renovation was made in the 1970s. All the seating was mounted, the raked [inclined] floor seating was mounted and immobile, and there weren't even any windows in the building. The whole place relied entirely on electricity for lighting."

See **Peabody** Page 2



Emily Bryant / Photo Editor

The temporary sidewalk next to Terrell was completed Sept. 7

Terrell construction fence extended rest of semester

Amy Lynn McDonald
Assistant News Editor

A temporary sidewalk now reroutes foot traffic around Terrell Hall as renovations begin to connect the building to city utilities located under the front campus lawn.

"There are new water and sewer lines being installed, and we are having

to come out of the front of the building in order to tie into the utilities," said Phil Best, project manager with Garbett Construction, the company responsible for the Terrell renovations.

Garbett is taking precautions with the water

system as line breaks and boil advisories have been common in Milledgeville in the past.

"There is always a risk when we start tapping the water mains," said Rick Ruark, the GC project manager. "But we feel pretty confident with this one."

See **Terrell** Page 3

Demand surges for pre-nursing

Steven Walters
Editor-in-Chief

&

Lindsay Stevens
News Editor

Freshmen enrollment for the pre-nursing program at GC has increased 76 percent over the last six years, but the number of nursing students accepted into the nursing program has remained constant.

"Unfortunately, we do have a tremendous number of pre-nursing students, and then we accept a cohort of 56 students twice a year," said Debby MacMillan, GC director of nursing. "So we know that we're only going to accept 112 students each year."

From 2013-2018, freshmen declaring a pre-nursing track rose from 127 students to 224.

"I think probably students are maybe more aware that they have a good potential of getting

a job if they have a nursing degree," McMillan said.

The nursing program, unlike most of majors, features a secondary admission process that receives more than 100 applicants each semester.

"Some of them will say either, 'I'm going to leave GC and go to a less-competitive nursing program because I really, truly want to be a nurse,' or 'I was thinking about being a nurse, but I was also thinking about this, and so that's probably what I'm going to lean to, and that major may or may not be offered at GC, so I may be transferring out,'" said Ramon Blakley, GC director of admissions.

Junior Chantel LaFleur, a nursing major, said the major is challenging.

See **Nursing** Page 2

'Divine Nine' monument in progress

Brendan Borders
Staff Writer

The GC Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life is partnering with the National Panhellenic Council (NPHC) to construct a monument next to Bell Hall that will cost \$216,000, with an additional \$16,000 to \$20,000 for the plaques surrounding the monument.

The NPHC, also known as the "Divine Nine" consists of nine fraternities and sororities. GC currently has eight of the nine organizations: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alpha Phi Theta, Delta Sigma Theta, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, Phi Beta Sigma, Sigma Gamma Rho and Zeta Phi Beta.

All of GC's NPHC organizations are responsible for raising a total of \$9,000 to assist the total cost of the monument.

"This amazing monument is for the purpose of showing the great history

that these organizations have, not only outside this campus, but also within the campus," said Michael Igbonagwam, the assistant director of Fraternity and Sorority Life at GC. "This will be a great way of showing the rich history of the organization in a different way."

Sophomore Ansley Griffis, an accounting major said that she knew about the construction of the project but did not know that there are eight different historically black organizations on campus that will be receiving plaques.

"I think it's cool that they are building [the monument]," Griffis said. "It brings attention to the NPHC. I think it's doing more to acknowledge these fraternities and sororities and their activities."



Courtesy of Widner & Associates Inc.

Plans for monument honoring NPHC next to Bell Hall

Junior Jazmin Hunt, one of two members of Zeta Phi Beta and a music education major, is excited for the monument to be built.

"We've seen videos of it and actual representations of the schools through pictures on the Internet and also a 2D printout of what it could look like...so I think it's gonna look really great," Hunt said. "It's going to be something that leaves an image here on GC's cam-

pus for years and years to come."

Currently there are benches in front of Lanier Hall to honor the organizations in the NPHC. When students go on tours of the university, they see the benches of the "Divine Nine" and see that this is their spot on campus.

Hunt, however, does not think that the benches in front of Lanier are an effective monument for the NPHC organizations because she said that stu-

dents will walk past and sit on the benches.

"A lot of people in our organizations are not okay with them sitting on our letters," Hunt said.

Hunt also added that sitting on the benches is disrespectful to that organization, and it would be similar to going to a Panhellenic house and destroying it.

The benches will be removed following the completion of the monument and will be given to the

organizations who built them and painted them.

"Not only is the monument on the side of Bell Hall, it encompasses the entire council in one location, and when you see it, you are going to stop and say, 'What is this?'" Hunt said.

In addition to adding the monument, GC is also in the process of adding a the ninth NPHC organization to campus, Iota Phi Theta. The time frame for this addition is unclear.

NEWS



TREK TO BELL

Temporary sidewalk is put in next to Terrell Hall, so students can get to their dorms in Bell.

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SPORTS



CROSS-COUNTRY AIMS HIGH

Men's and women's cross-country expect success.

Pg. 4

ARTS & LIFE



"I DO'S" BEFORE DEGREES

Find out why two students got married before getting their undergraduate degrees.

Pg. 8

NEWS

Peabody

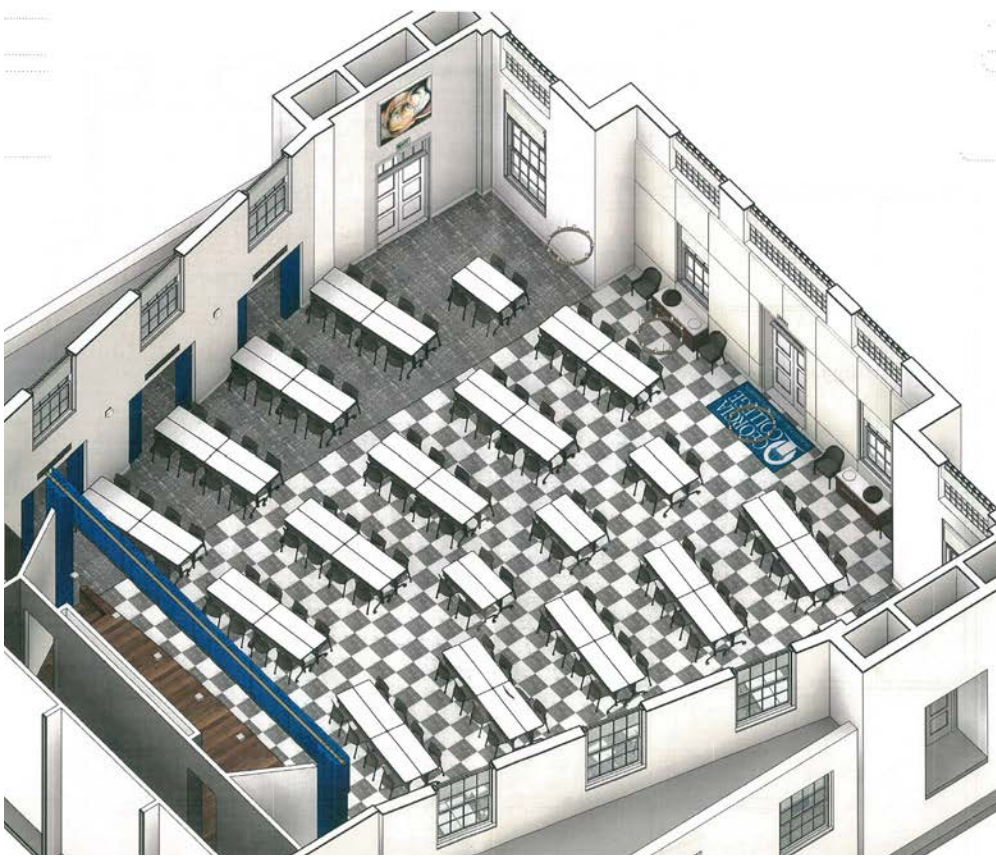
Continued from page 1

Having the floor on an incline also created difficulty to use the building for different events. Therefore, for reasons of comfort, the project will completely redesign the floor.

“We ripped the floors out completely,” said Phil Best, project manager. “Before we got here, the auditorium floor seating arrangement was inclined. We figured we could improve functionality of the building if we

made the seating area flat.” Although the raked seating arrangement in Peabody was standard for an auditorium, it certainly did not guarantee convenience. “Being able to move chairs and tables in and out of Peabody to make room for events would be a lot easier if the floor was flat,” said Best. In addition to redesigning the floor and installing movable furniture, the project will also line the building with windows, adding natural sunlight to the interior. The project started in August and is projected to be completed in late

November. The project is costly; construction costs are approximately \$380,000. Total costs for the project are over \$600,000. Built in 1937, Peabody Auditorium is one of the oldest buildings at GC. Great American writer and GC alumna Flannery O’Connor, who was raised in Milledgeville, mentions Peabody in a few of her stories. “Peabody has been here since before Flannery was here,” said Bruce Gentry, an O’Connor scholar. “An unspecified auditorium turns up in a few of her stories. It is presumably Peabody.”



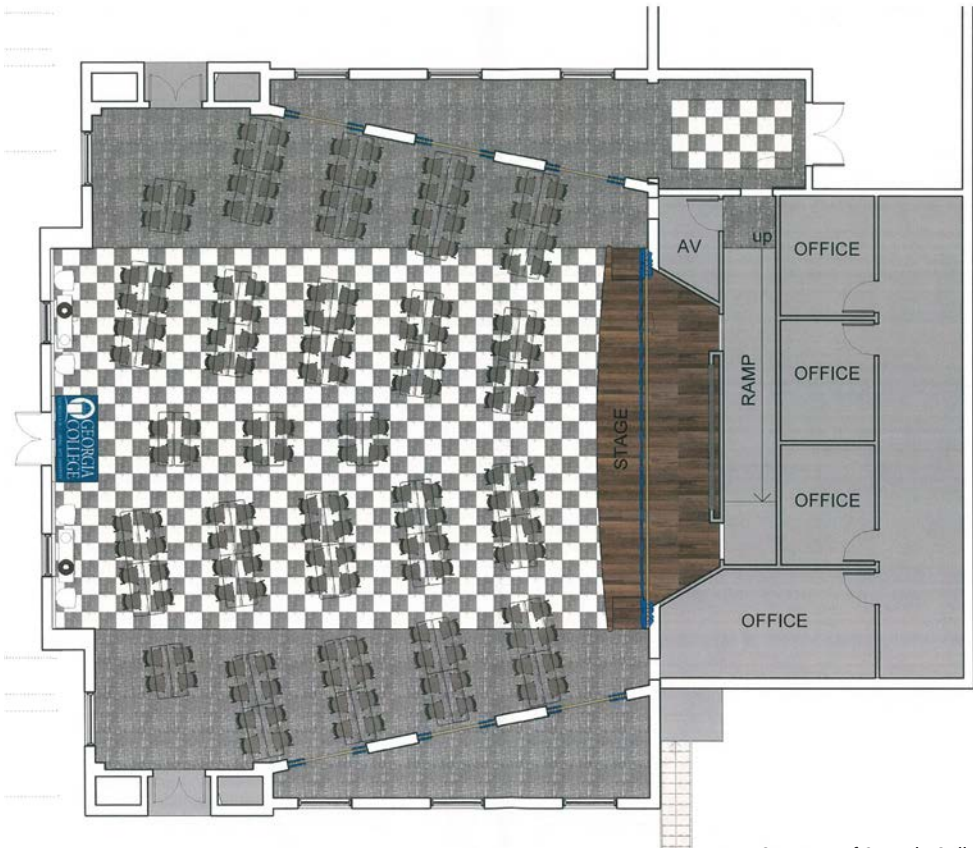
Courtesy of Georgia College

3D blueprint of Peabody renovations



Emily Bryant / Photo Editor

Construction going on outside Peabody on Sept. 17



Courtesy of Georgia College

Bird's-eye view of the plan for Peabody's renovation

Nursing

Continued from page 1

“Some people don’t realize all that you have to do in nursing, and when they find out that you may have to clean patients and deal with bodily fluids

and blood and all of that, people may not want to, or they’ll get sick, or they realize that they’ll pass out if they see a blood draw, so I think [freshman seminar] also [helps] a little bit, too,” LaFleur said. In December 2017 and May 2018, GC’s graduating cohorts scored 100 percent on the NCLEX-RN, the licensing exam for nurses. GC has been ranked

the No. 1 nursing school in the state. This could be the reason GC has such a competitive nursing program. The Spring 2019 cohort’s average test scores were a 3.65 GPA, a 1,236 SAT score, a 24.56 ACT score and an 85.8 TEAS score, though MacMillan said the numbers vary by cohort. The nursing program also aims to keep its 8-1 student-to-faculty ratio.

GC prides itself on having a smaller ratio because it allows students to be more hands-on with their learning and closer to their professors. Adding more faculty, MacMillan said, would not necessarily lead to letting in more students. “We also have to have clinical placement for these students, and we compete with a lot of other nursing schools for the

same spots,” MacMillan said. “So, we have to make sure that we have enough places for our students to go, so just because we have more pre-nursing students doesn’t mean that we can automatically create more clinical sights.” MacMillan pointed to a possible expansion of the new Navicent Health Baldwin simulation center. “We are looking at that,

and I would hope that if we can secure the funds for additional faculty and can secure the funds for additional software and simulation equipment, that we might can increase the number of students that we admit,” MacMillan said. “But it’s kind of like stopping a train or changing course of a sailboat. It’s not something that you just do.”

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CORRECTIONS

In the Sept. 13 Issue, a headline on page 2 said “Balwin courthouse gets new clock tower.” That headline was not congruent with the story. The courthouse did not get a new clock tower.

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THIS WEEK IN

GC HISTORY

SEPT. 28

SEPT. 28, 1936

PLANS WERE RELEASED FOR A NEW DORMITORY BEING BUILT WITH FUNDS DONATED BY MRS. LOUISA PORTER GILMER MINIS. THE DORM WAS TO BE NAMED FOR HER GREAT-UNCLE, ANTHONY PORTER HALL.

ROUGHLY 150 GIRLS WERE HOUSED IN THE NEW PORTER HALL, TWO GIRLS PER ROOM.

THE BUILDING FEATURED RECEPTION AREAS AND PARLORS FOR SOCIAL GATHERINGS

PORTER HALL NO LONGER SERVES AS A DORM FOR STUDENTS, IT IS THE HOME OF THE MUSIC AND THEATER DEPARTMENTS, ALTHOUGH SOME MUSIC STUDENTS SAY THEY LIVE THERE, WITH THE AMOUNT OF TIME THEY SPEND IN REHEARSALS AND PRACTICE ROOMS!

FACULTY HAD SIX LARGE, FIVE-ROOM APARTMENTS AND SEVERAL SMALLER, ONE- OR TWO-ROOM APARTMENTS.

Rachael Alesia / Graphic Designer

Terrell construction

Continued from page 1

The new sidewalk around the construction site is projected to be removed sometime in December, once the building has been connected to appropriate utilities and the foundation is water-proofed.

Residents of Bell Hall are most immediately affected since their normal campus routes are interrupted, and the noise level they experience during the

day has increased.

"I know they built the new sidewalk, but I go through [Arts and Sciences] if I want to get to the library, instead of walking all the way around," said junior Emily Green, a history major and CA in Bell Hall.

Roark has requested, on the behalf of Bell Hall residents, that Garbett wait until later in the morning or afternoon for the loudest activities.

"When they were breaking up cement, the whole classroom in Bell was shaking," Green said.

"It isn't that there won't be any noise," Roark said.

"It just won't be jackhammers and such early in the morning."

Upon completion of this phase, Garbutt is responsible for putting down sod in the path of the removed sidewalk to return the north corner of front campus to usable open space for students to enjoy.

"The sidewalk is a way to continue the work and not interfere with [students'] daily routine as much as we can and keep them safe," Best said.

Emily Bryant / Photo Editor

An excavator waits to dig access to water lines in front of Terrell

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SPORTS

Cross-country freshmen hungry for victory

Lilia Starnes
Assistant Sports Editor

The GC men's cross-country team starts the 2018 season ranked No. 3 in the preseason PBC and No. 8 in the southeast region. With three new freshmen on the team, GC's cross-country team is looking to improve and become a closer group.

"The main goal this season is to improve each week and get better every race," said head coach Steven Cary. "This season we really want to focus on closing the gaps between our runners and to run as a pack and start the race in the front."

Both the women's and men's cross-country teams ended the summer with a team retreat where they had the opportunity to grow closer to one another and set goals for their 2018 seasons.

"Our team goals are to win conference and to make nationals, both of which would be firsts for the school," said senior Austin Campbell.

The men's team attended the annual VSU Border Clash, hosted by Valdosta University at Freedom Park in Valdosta. The team came out with a fourth place finish and had four runners finish in the Top 25 on the 7.25K course.

This season the team

has added an extra weight training day, which not only helps them get faster and stronger, but also prevents injuries. Overall, the team is not changing much when it comes to their practices: they are sticking with their normal training and tempo runs.

"As a team this year, we are really emphasizing making each and every run and practice matter, even if we aren't feeling great, making sure our effort and attitude are in the right place because those are two things we can always control, and just being intentional about everything we do to make sure we put ourselves in the best position possible this season," Campbell said.

Cary said that one of their biggest "blessings" this season is the team's group of freshmen.

"They respect the upperclassman, but they are not afraid to compete and challenge them," Cary said.

Campbell said he wants to be a leader for these younger members of the team as a part of his personal goals.

"Personally, my goals are to consistently place as one of our Top 5 runners and to set an example and be a leader for the younger guys on the team, both in cross-country and outside of the sport," Campbell said.

In the upcoming season, the men hope to be one of the top region teams and place a spot higher than they did last



Courtesy of GC Communication
Senior George Dyer completes a cross-country meet last year on Oct. 26, 2017

year. The team wants to make firsts for the school, which they plan on doing with consistency in workouts and training runs.

"The men are more fit this year because of the progression training runs and their attitude at practice," Cary said. "They want to get better, and they know what they have to do."

The cross-country team will host their 2018 GC Bobcat Invitational on Oct. 20 at The Farm.



Courtesy of GC Communication
The men's team starts the race in the middle of the pack

Family bond on course encourages success

Keegan Casteel
Staff Writer

The GC women's cross-country team prepares to take on the upcoming season as a competitive front-runner after placing fourth in the PBC preseason rankings and eighth in the SE Region.

Despite competing with a young roster last season, the team exceeded expectations and finished third in the conference for the first time in over eight years.

"This year's group is by far one of the best teams that this school has ever seen," said head coach

Steven Cary. "I believe that we have the talent to prove that this season, and their attitudes just speak volumes. These ladies are overflowing with positivity."

The team kicked off the 2018 season on Aug. 31 at the VSU Battle Clash hosted by Valdosta State University and placed third overall out of seven schools. The result served as a great testament to the team's hard work and improvement.

Senior Rachel Boulineau led the Bobcats on the board placing 12th out of 69 competitors followed by junior Grace Lynch in 15th and sophomore Tessa Allen in 16th.

"There is certainly a dif-

ferent dynamic this year," Cary said. "In the past two or three years, there was a huge time gap between our No. 1 runner and everybody else. Whereas now, I feel very confident in our ability to compete as a unit."

Entering her second and final year running for the Bobcats, Boulineau has set personal goals to leave her mark at GC.

"As far as a time, I'd love to go under 19 minutes for the 5K because that's been a longtime goal of mine," Boulineau said. "We have a great group of women, so I'd like to continue building on that and keep the team going strong."

One of Boulineau's

fondest memories and achievements occurred last year when she was the only girl to run the 10K on the track.

"My whole team had encircled the track, so there was someone everywhere I looked, and I always heard my name being called," Boulineau said. "I thought that served as a testament to how close and encouraging we are with each other."

The group of athletes emphasizes the importance of five core values that they strive to live by and incorporate into succeeding as a team. These values include family, fun, commitment, accountability and teamwork.

Highlighting her team's

core virtues, senior Sarah Wilder anticipates the season to be filled with high achievements and continued relationship building between her teammates.

"We're definitely shooting for the top this year and won't be holding anything back," Wilder said. "Everybody wants to push one another to do their best, whether is be on or off the track," "Since it's my last season, I'd love to leave an impact by continuing to encourage the family bond the team has."

Wilder said she loves that cross-country is a sport that allows you to compete against yourself, and she's always trying to break her personal record. Recently, she achieved a

new personal record of completing a 5K in 20 minutes and 44 seconds.

"It was a really great day when I broke my record," Wilder said. "I was definitely in the groove and hitting my times perfectly every lap. Everyone was holding their breath on the last lap to see if I would cross the finish line in under 21 minutes. It was just a crazy experience to feel the love and support from my team. We make it a point to celebrate each other's victories."

Cary said he believes that this year's team is something special.

"The teamwork aspect and close-knit family environment is all contributing to this success," Cary said.



Courtesy of GC Communication
The GC women's cross-country team starts in front of the competition at a meet last year on Oct. 26, 2017

SPORTS

THE IDEAL GC SOCCER PLAYER

1

SPEED/PACE/STAMINA

KAI JEFFRIES: “She is lights out fast and at maximum fitness level. She can run 90 minutes like it’s nothing.”

2

ATTITUDE/HEART

AMANDA BARTHOLOMEW: “She trains and plays at 110% everytime she steps on the field. She’s extremely positive, and I’ve never heard a negative word out of her mouth. She’s encouraging to all of her teammates.”

3

VISION/BRAIN

ASHLEY GRAHAM: “Her soccer IQ is off the charts. She’s literally a coach on the field and will probably be a phenomenal coach in the future.”

4

AGGRESIVENESS/MENTAL GAME

HANNAH ASBELL: “She’s a stronghold for our defensive line and holds her composure very well.”

5

WORK ETHIC

AMANDA BARTHOLOMEW: “She has the best work ethic when it comes to soccer and academics.”

6

TECHNIQUE/BALL HANDLING

BECCA MORRIS: “She’s very savy and creative with the ball.”

AMANDA BARTHOLOMEW: “She has the best ability to bring a ball down out of the air.”

7

BALL PLACEMENT: PASSING, CROSSING, SHOOTING

AMANDA BARTHOLOMEW: “She’s the most accurate shooter, she’s on ball the most, and her distribution is on point and precise.”

8

CLUTCH FACTOR

ASHLEE GRAHAM: “I’d let her handle our team any day.”





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ARTS & LIFE

Required vs. desired

Emotional support animals on-campus

Emma Lako
Staff Writer

An increasing number of students around the country are treating mental health disabilities with emotional support animals. This trend is evident at GC, as well, as more students bring their emotional support animals on campus.

The increase of emotional support animals is a relatively new trend, catching on at GC in the past three years.

According GC's Student Disability Resource Center, emotional support animals are not service animals, but their purpose is to provide comfort and stability to their owners, who suffer from some kind of mental or psychiatric disability.

Federal law defines a service animal as a dog or miniature horse, but emotional support animals can be any animal that provides therapeutic value.

Support animals can be a ferret, cat, bird or any animal that medical professionals have deemed therapeutic.

Some students try to register an animal just to bring a pet to school, but a student without recorded medical history is incapable of passing a pet off as a support animal.

"What I tell students when I meet with them is that there are two keywords that I focus on: required vs. desired," said Larry Christenson, executive director of student



Emma Lako / Staff Writer

Breitmann holds her emotional support cat in Napier Hall

housing. "If you desire an animal, then it's for the wrong reasons, but if you require an animal, then we can talk about moving forward."

A licensed doctor has to recommend an emotional support animal as treatment for a mental or psychiatric disability in order for an emotional support animal to be considered "required."

If a student wants to register their own emotional support animal, the first step is to go to the resource center at GC.

The resource center works with students to gather the required documentation and mental health history. The paperwork and proof of requirement will be shipped off and reviewed by the Georgia Board of Regents'

Center for Learning Disorders. Students receive a decision via email.

If the paperwork is cleared, then the final step is to meet with the resource center to finalize the agreement between owner and the university system.

This process usually takes about four to eight weeks, but for some, this lengthy process is well worth it.

Junior Shelby Breitmann, a psychology major, got her emotional support cat Millie from a local Milledgeville shelter where she often volunteers.

While Breitmann spent time at the shelter, Millie stood out because she wouldn't leave her side.

Breitmann's connection with Millie led her to foster

the loving shelter cat.

Breitmann's passion for rescuing animals led her to find an emotionally supportive animal that would help her cope with her generalized anxiety disorder.

"It has been super helpful in my mental health journey," said Breitmann. "Having an animal that needs me to take care of it and loves me when I need it has been a grounding presence in my life."

Millie is a friendly face who always welcomes her home and is also able to help Breitmann deal with the pressures of college.

"When I am working on overwhelming assignments, she will come to sit in my lap," Breitmann said. "When I need a break, she will look at me and lick my face. It is almost like she [is] telling me I am going to be okay."

Junior Lauren Butera, a biology major, got her emotional support cat in the 7th grade.

For a year, her cat Alice was a registered service animal. These animals are individually trained to do work or tasks for the benefit of a person with a physical disability.

Alice retired into the role of emotional support animal when new laws were put in place deciding that only dogs and miniature horses could be trained service animals.

Because of the previous training she received to be a service animal, Lauren said she believes Alice is an even better emotional support animal.

When talking about her cat's training, Lauren said, "She was even trained to know how to hug people."



Benjamin Monckton
Contributing Writer

"Future Me Hates Me"

New Zealand-based band The Beths first LP, "Future Me Hates Me," is a spirited pop-rock album that combines joyful melodies with refined lyricism. The opening track "Great No One" oozes power-pop vocals and tasteful guitar riffs which accompany explosive choruses and tension-building verses.

The energy is similar to Weezer's beloved debut album but blends with the reflective masochism of Angel Olsen.

Simply put, "Future Me Hates Me" is a refreshing burst of pure pop bliss in a sea of experimentation.

Lead vocalist and songwriter Elizabeth Stokes tempers a self-reflective songwriting style with infectious melodies that evoke an ironic quality to each song.

"You say my name, my legs support a little less," Stokes sings on "Little Death," an innocent love song accompanied by brooding instrumentals. Beneath the surface, Stokes' lyricism retains its authenticity despite being placed in the upbeat context of the instrumentals.

"Future Me Hates Me" is perhaps the most original guitar-based album to

be released in the latter half of 2018. Produced by the band's guitarist, the group retains full control of its sound and honesty.

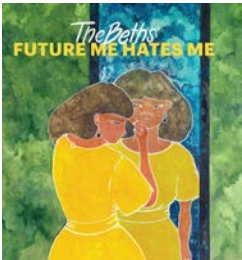
Stokes focuses on the fear of vulnerability as she sings, "The walls become thin, and somebody gets in." The songwriting on the entire record capitalizes on this theme, accompanied by subtle yet well-placed harmonies and memorable guitar solos.

Nothing about the album is immature. The Beths are not a group of amateurs new to performing.

The band-members studied jazz at the University of Auckland, where they explored a myriad of musical and performance styles. They

chose to make a pop-rock record, and they succeeded on a multitude of different levels. It is comforting to have a certain style that never tiptoes into new explorative territories. This is an album that knows exactly what it is: impulsive, catchy and a mess of wonderful indie-pop anthems.

A combination of intensity and slacker-rock, "Future Me Hates Me" is a refreshing record full of pop-rock hooks that have the potential to unite fans of rock subgenres. The Beths are certainly a band to watch, and their debut is one to celebrate.



Are you going to continue to support Nike after the Colin Kaepernick ad?



"I don't like how Nike's ad used individuals in it as a selling point. I wish they kept out of the controversy."
- Griffin Brantley
junior history major



"I think the Nike ad was a mistake because Kaepernick blatantly disrespected the anthem, and now he is being rewarded for it. The ad has made me lose a lot of respect for Nike."
- Brooke Yost
junior mass communications major



"I think we should toss and boycott all Nike products! Especially the Vaporfly Elite marathon shoes and Tempo II running shorts! The Vaporfly women's size 11 ones are the worst of the bunch. Just drop them all off at my office, and I'll make sure they're properly disposed of!"
- Joanna Schwartz
professor of marketing



"I think it is admirable that Nike is using the platform that they have to spread awareness for police brutality. I have no issue with Colin Kaepernick or his protesting, and I love Nike for help spreading awareness for social injustices."
- Rachel Kandierski
senior public health major



"I think that all of this controversy is coming down to the fact that people don't realize kneeling is a sign of respect, so I will continue to support Nike."
- Abbie Wheeler
junior criminal justice major

ARTS & LIFE

Down the aisle before crossing the stage

College students who tie the knot before graduation

Maggie Waldmann
Staff Writer

In the era of commitment issues, read receipts and swiping right, the current romantic climate for college students is cloudy with a chance of single. Yet two GC students, Maddie Eads and Ansleigh Justice, have managed to break the norm by finding not only relationships in college, but marriages.

Eads, 21, a music therapy major, met her husband Joseph in January 2017 at a Passion City church conference. Two weeks after their first date, they became exclusive, nine months later he proposed, and by July 2018, the couple tied the knot.

The fast pace of the marriage was no concern to Eads, who said she and her husband had discussed marriage early on in their relationship.

“We kind of knew it was going to happen,” Eads said. “[Since] I’m still in school, we didn’t really know how that would work, but it worked.”

Justice, 23, faced a similarly quick jump into marriage as her husband Andrew is active in the military.

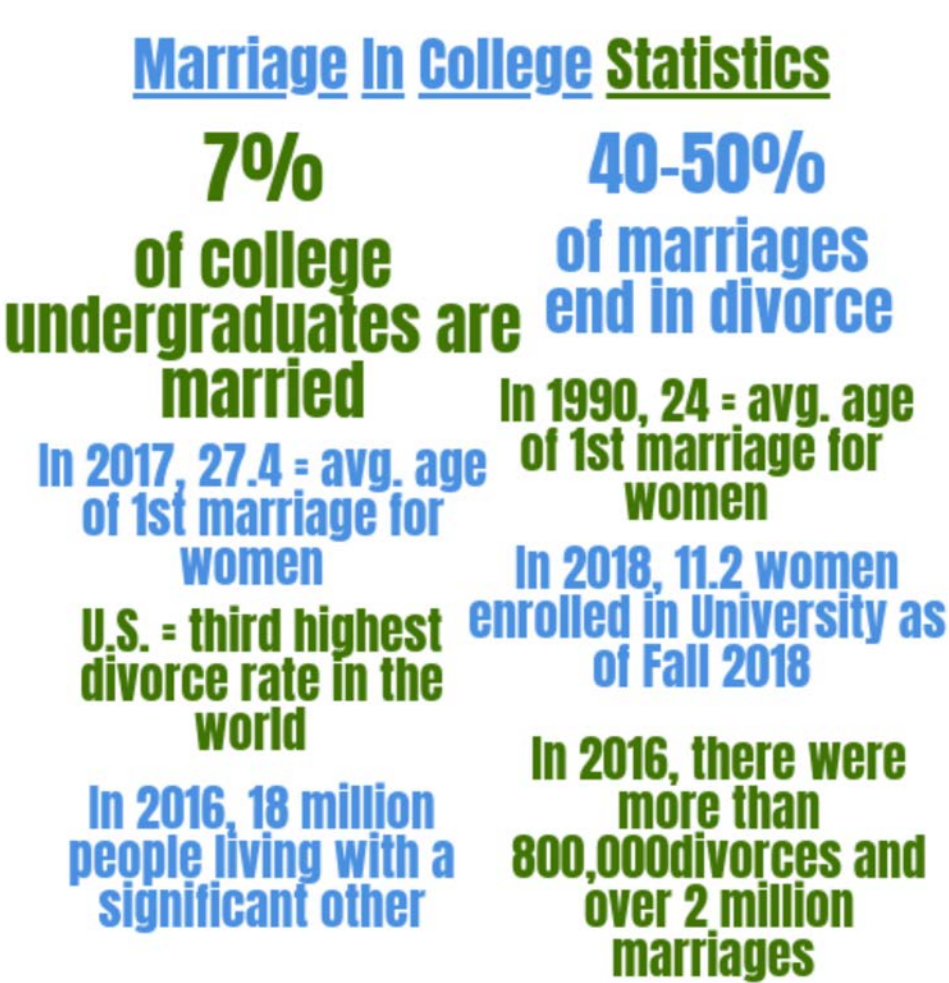
However, her unique situation posed uncertainty between the couple when they found out he was going to be stationed abroad shortly after they met.

“We thought we were going to be living in Germany, which would have been very interesting because I would still have to go to school here,” Justice said. “I had already registered for the next semester, [and] I was like, ‘How is this going to work?’”

The couple met on the dating app “Tinder” in May 2017 and were legally married by November 2017, which was followed by an official wedding with family and friends in February 2018.

Twelve days after their wedding, Andrew was deployed to Afghanistan. He will be coming home for the first time this upcoming November.

Justice’s early marriage became necessary in her



Heather Hayden / Assistant Graphic Designer



Maddie and Joseph Eads celebrate their July wedding in Hiram, Georgia

situation due to her husband’s rigid duties in the military, yet Ead’s reasoning for tying the knot at 21 was less of an ultimatum.

“We just wanted to,” Eads said. “If we can get through this, we can get through anything.”

While Justice is experiencing a long distance marriage situation, Eads and Joseph live in a house together in Milledgeville, where he is able to work full time while she attends school.

His job at Golden Pantry supports the couple financially, but Ead’s parents still play a major role in helping the two out with money. She described her thankfulness for their support but said it can feel restricting at times.

“Obviously I’m very grateful for it because [I] do not have time for a job, [and] it’s hard because they still have that over us,” Eads said.

Justice’s parents, on the other hand, only pay for her phone bill because her husband is able to provide solid financial stability for the two through his military job.

Financial concerns are not the only challenges of getting married young. Eads explained that having a spouse is a circumstance many college students do not understand.

“My biggest fear of getting married in college was my social life [and that] people [would] be like, ‘Oh she’s married, she doesn’t want to hang out, or go to this event,’ but I want to,” Eads said.

The task of juggling a marriage, the responsibilities of “adulting” and obtaining a college degree also provide a measure of difficulty in relating to peers.

“I am living with a spouse, and we are legally bound to each other,” Eads said. “It’s different because [most students] come home after a long day, and they have roommates, [but] I have a family that I still have to provide for.”

Eryn Viscarra, lecturer of sociology, weighed in on the challenges of getting married young.

“I think it really depends on the individuals in the

relationship, their maturity level and the quality of their relationship,” Viscarra said. “It could be beneficial to have someone to come home to and provide that social and emotional support.”

According to the CDC’s most recent U.S. statistics, both marriage and divorce are declining from previous years, with 827,261 divorces and 2,245,404 marriages in 2016, versus 944,000 divorces and 2,315,000 marriages in 2000.

While marital and education statistics are widely available from the past decade, numbers specifically dealing with college marriages are lacking, making it harder to judge the outcome of current college students’ marital success.

Getting married in the middle of pursuing a college degree was never the original plan for either Justice nor Eads, who both explained their big career aspirations for the upcoming years.

Justice’s husband supported her plans to graduate and find a job in social media when they discussed their plans before getting married.

“Something that was really important to him was for me to finish school,” Justice said.

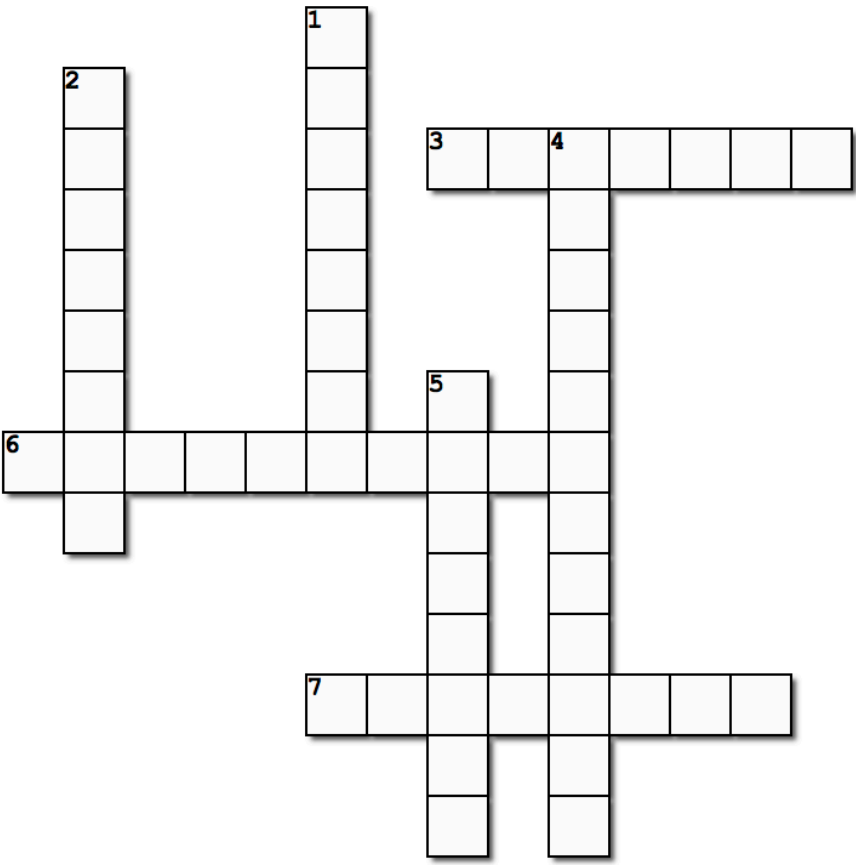
According to the U.S. Census Bureau statistics, marrying young is becoming outdated; the average age of a woman’s first marriage has risen from 24 years old in 1990 to 27.4 in 2017.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the projected number of women attending college as of Fall 2018 is 11.2 million, which is the highest number ever recorded and a possible explanation for the lack of early marriages.

Young women are prioritizing their college degrees over their marriage certificates now more than ever.

Though Eads and Justice got the wedding dress first, the cap and gown is right around the corner as they both prepare to graduate this upcoming December.

Crossword Puzzle



Down

- 1. According to the CDC, both ____ and divorce rates are declining.
- 2. How many students does the nursing cohort accept each semester?
- 4. Who would Coach Clark let handle her soccer team any day?
- 5. Under how many minutes does Rachel Boulineau want her 5K time to be?

Across

- 3. Which building on campus, that was referred to by Flannery O’Connor in one of her stories, is being renovated?
- 6. The group of historically black fraternities and sororities.
- 7. What does Coach Cary say is one the men’s cross-country team’s biggest blessings?

Submit your completed crossword to MSU 128 between 4-8 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 24 to enter a giveaway for a Blackbird gift card!